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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
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Masayuki YABUTA et al) Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
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Application Number: To Be Assigned) Examiner: To Be Assigned
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Filed: January 10, 2002)
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International Application No. PCT/JP01/03909)
Filed: May 10, 2001)
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For: METHODS FOR REDUCING THE FORMATION OF BYPRODUCTS IN THE
PRODUCTION OF RECOMBINANT POLYPEPTIDES

PRE AMENDT/A
AJ
P#3
4-29-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, which is a national phase application of PCT/JP01/03909, filed May 10, 2001, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3, 6, and 7 with the following claims, provided in a clean format in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

A1
3. (Amended) The method as defined in Claim 9 or 10 wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic cell or an eukaryotic cell.

6. (Amended) The method as defined in any one of Claims 9 and 10 wherein the molecular weight of the polypeptide comprising a serine residue is about 1000 to 2000.

A2
7. (Amended) The method as defined in any one of Claims 9 and 10 wherein the polypeptide comprising a serine residue is an atrial natriuretic peptide.

Please cancel Claims 1 and 2 and replace with the following new claim:

A3
--9. (New) A method for reducing formation of a byproduct polypeptide comprising an O-acetylserine residue in place of a serine residue, comprising culturing, in a medium, host cells transformed to produce a recombinant polypeptide comprising a serine